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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 10/541,978 | 07/11/2005 | Machiel Antonius Martinus Hendrix | NL 030030 | 8780 |
| 24737 | 7590 | 03/29/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS | | | | STERRETT, JEFFREY L |
| P.O. BOX 3001 | | | | |
| BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510 | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | 2838 | | |

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

RD

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/541,978 | HENDRIX, MACHIEL ANTONIUS MARTINUS | |
| | Examiner Jeffrey L. Sterrett | Art Unit 2838 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 4-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 4-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner..
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/12/06</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al (US 6,353,547).

Jang et al teaches a DC/AC converter (figures 2a, 8, or 9) comprising first (Q1), second (Q2), third (Q3), and fourth (Q4) switches connected in series with the junction between the second and third switches serving as an output or load terminal and a control circuit (not explicitly shown but see waveforms of figures 2b and 7) causing the second and third switches to conduct alternately with periods of simultaneous conduction (see waveforms Vs2 and Vs3 in figure 7) as recited by claims 5-9 except for specifying that the load is a gas discharge lamp. Official notice is taken that gas discharge lamp loads were old and known in the art at the time of the invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized the DC/AC converter of Jang et al to provide AC power to a gas discharge lamp load instead of the transformer/rectifier load since it was well known in the art that most AC loads of DC/AC converters are interchangeable with the determination controlled only by what the specific load one desires to be powered.

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al.

Jang et al teaches a DC/AC converter as recited by claim 4 except for specifying that the switch elements and control circuit are integrated onto a single semiconductor chip. The integration of the individual circuitry elements of a power

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converter onto a single semiconductor chip was an old and known expedient in the art at the time of the invention as illustrated by Mizutani (US 5,953,222 or 6,084,788) or Kijima et al (US 6,101,114) for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the DC/AC converter of Jang et al by integrating the individual circuitry elements of the DC/AC converter onto a single semiconductor chip in order to provide a small, compact, and conveniently packaged DC/AC converter.

4. Applicant's arguments filed February 27, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the remarks concerning the intervals of simultaneous conduction of the second and third switches, in figures 7f and 7g of Jang et al it is clearly illustrated by waveforms Vs2 and Vs3 that switches Q2 and Q3 are conductive at the same time during time periods T4-T5 and T10-T11. Although the gating signals S2 and S3 of Jang et al shown by figures 7b and 7c (identified by applicant) may not overlap as do the gating signals provided to switches 12 and 13 as disclosed by applicant, the switches Q2 and Q3 of Jang et al nevertheless are simultaneously conductive because of the transition time between ON and OFF states of the two switches overlap as is current recited by applicant in the pending claims.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened-statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey L. Sterrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-2085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday & 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karl D. Easthom can be reached on (571) 272-1989. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jeffrey L. Sterrett

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Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Demuth".